

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (New) A vital data utilization system comprising:

 a server;

 a receiving apparatus; and

 a plurality of measurement instruments,

 wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network,

 wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

 a vital data measurement unit operable to measure vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects in a quantitative manner;

 a clock unit operable to detect a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

 a sending unit operable to send, to said server, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time,

 wherein said server includes:

 a receiving unit operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time;

 a storage unit;

 a database making unit operable to store each received set of information in said storage unit and operable to make a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

 a value-added information making unit operable to calculate the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database and operable to make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit operable to receive the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and operable to output the value-added information.

Claim 31 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein:
said database making unit is operable to update the database when receiving at least one new set of information; and

said value-added information making unit is operable to update the value-added information based on the updated database.

Claim 32 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said receiving apparatus is placed in at least one of a hospital, a public facility, and a subject's house.

Claim 33 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said vital data measurement unit is operable to measure vital data which is an indicator of an infection.

Claim 34 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 33, wherein the vital data which is an indicator of an infection is at least one of body temperature, blood pressure, pulse, cardiograph, oxygen saturation in blood, accelerated pulse wave velocity, a number of white blood cells, C-reactive protein concentration in blood (CRP), protein concentration in urine, glucose concentration in urine, amino acid concentration in urine, and feces viscosity.

Claim 35 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 34, wherein the protein in urine is at least one of albumin, globulin, hemoglobin, and myoglobin.

Claim 36 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said vital data measurement unit is placed as housing equipment in the subject's house.

Claim 37 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 36, wherein:
the housing equipment is at least one of a toilet apparatus and a bed; and
said vital data measurement unit includes at least one of a thermometer, a blood-pressure meter, a pulsimeter, an electrocardiograph, and a meter of oxygen saturation in blood, that are for measuring the vital data, and measures the vital data at a time when the subject uses at least one of the toilet apparatus and the bed.

Claim 38 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 36, wherein:
the housing equipment is a toilet apparatus; and
said vital data measurement unit includes a urine analyzer and measures the vital data at a time when the subject uses the toilet apparatus.

Claim 39 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 38, wherein the urine analyzer mixes urine of the subject and a reagent including an antibody that specifically combines with an analysis target component, measures turbidity of a resulting mixed solution, and measures an analysis target component in the urine.

Claim 40 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 30, wherein said server further includes a charging unit operable to calculate a charge for the value-added information provided to said receiving apparatus.

Claim 41 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 40, wherein said server includes an incentive calculation unit operable to calculate an incentive for each subject.

Claim 42 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 41, wherein said incentive calculation unit is operable to add, to a charge calculated by said charging unit, a value of the incentive for each subject.

Claim 43 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 41, wherein said incentive calculation unit is operable to calculate points to be exchanged for at least one of (i) a right to receive the value-added information, (ii) a right to receive a discount from a rate of the value-added information, (iii) a right to receive a free distribution of, or a discount from a sale price of, a commodity to be used by said vital data measurement unit, (iv) a right to receive another service, and (v) a right to receive a free distribution of, or a discount from a sale price of, another commodity.

Claim 44 (New) A vital data utilization system comprising:

- a server;

- a receiving apparatus; and

- a plurality of measurement instruments,

wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

- a vital data measurement unit operable to measure vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects;

- a clock unit operable to detect a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

- a sending unit operable to add, to a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, identification information identifying a corresponding measurement instrument or a subject, and operable to send, to said server, the set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the measurement time, and the identification information,

wherein said server includes:

- a receiving unit operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the measurement time, and the identification information;

- a storage unit;

a database making unit operable to store each received set of information in said storage unit and operable to make individual databases where each received set of information for corresponding measuring instruments or subjects is stored in a respective individual database based on the identification information;

a value-added information making unit operable to (i) calculate differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual databases and previously-set standard values of the vital data, (ii) average the calculated differential values concerning subjects satisfying a predetermined condition in a predetermined time segment, and (iii) make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the differential values calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit operable to receive the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and operable to output the value-added information.

Claim 45 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 44, wherein the subjects satisfying the predetermined condition are subjects having vital data measured in a same predetermined geographical area or living in the same predetermined graphical area.

Claim 46 (New) A vital data utilization system comprising:

a server;

a receiving apparatus; and

a plurality of measurement instruments,

wherein said server, said receiving apparatus, and said measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

a vital data measurement unit operable to measure vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects;

a clock unit operable to detect a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

a sending unit operable to add, to a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, subject identification information identifying a corresponding subject of said measurement instrument, and operable to send, to said server, the set of information including the measured vital data of the subject, the measurement time, and the subject identification information,

wherein said server includes:

a receiving unit operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data, the measurement time, and the subject identification information;

a storage unit;

a database making unit operable to store each received set of information in said storage unit and operable to make individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual database based on the subject identification information;

a value-added information making unit operable to (i) calculate differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject databases and individual subject averages of the vital data in a past predetermined period, (ii) average the calculated differential values concerning the subjects satisfying a predetermined condition in a predetermined time segment, and (iii) make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the differential values calculated for the plurality subjects; and

a value-added information providing unit operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information, and

wherein said receiving apparatus includes an output unit operable to receive the value-added information provided by said value-added information providing unit and operable to output the value-added information.

Claim 47 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 46, wherein the subjects that satisfy the predetermined condition are the subjects having vital data measured in a same predetermined geographical area or living in the same predetermined geographical area.

Claim 48 (New) A server which is connected to a receiving apparatus and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said server comprising:

- a receiving unit operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including measured vital data of a subject, measured in a quantitative manner, and a measurement time;

- a storage unit;

- a database making unit operable to store each received set of information in said storage unit and operable to make a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

- a value-added information making unit operable to calculate the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database and operable to make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

- a value-added information providing unit operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.

Claim 49 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

- said receiving unit is operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information to which subject identification information, identifying a corresponding subject of each measurement instrument, is added;

- said database making unit is operable to make individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual subject database based on the subject identification information; and

- said value-added information making unit is operable to (i) calculate differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject

databases and previously-set standard values of the vital data, and (ii) make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the differential values calculated for the plurality of subjects.

Claim 50 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

said receiving unit is operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information to which subject identification information, identifying a corresponding subject of each measurement instrument, is added;

said database making unit is operable to make individual subject databases where each received set of information for the subjects is stored in a respective individual subject based on the subject identification information; and

said value-added information making unit is operable to (i) calculate differential values between the vital data included in the sets of information stored in the individual subject databases and individual subject averages of the vital data in a past predetermined period, and (ii) make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of differential values calculated for the plurality of subjects.

Claim 51 (New) The vital data utilization system according to claim 48, wherein:

said database making unit is operable to update the database after receiving at least one new set of information; and

said value-added information unit is operable to update the value-added information based on the updated database.

Claim 52 (New) A vital data utilization method for a system including a server, a receiving apparatus, and a plurality of measurement instruments connected to each other via a communication network, said vital data utilization method comprising:

measuring, via the measuring instruments, the vital data of a plurality of subjects in a quantitative manner;

detecting, via the measuring instruments, a respective measurement time at which the vital data of each subject is measured by said measuring of the vital data;

sending, via the measuring instruments, to the server, a respective set of information for each subject, each respective set of information including the measured vital data of the respective subject and the respective measurement time;

receiving, via the server and from each of the measurement instruments, each respective set of information including the measured vital data of the respective subject and the respective measurement time;

storing, via a storage unit of the server, each received set of information;

making, via the server, a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

making, via the server, value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects;

providing, via the server, the receiving apparatus with the made value-added information;
and

outputting, via the receiving apparatus, output the value-added information provided by said providing of the value-added information.

Claim 53 (New) A vital data utilization method for a server used in a system in which the server, a receiving apparatus, and a plurality of measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network, the server including a storage unit operable to hold a plurality of sets of information, said vital data utilization method comprising:

receiving, from each of the measurement instruments, a respective set of information including measured vital data of a respective subject of a plurality of subjects, measured in a quantitative manner, and a respective measurement time;

storing each received set of information in the storage unit;

making a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

making value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects; and
providing the receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.

Claim 54 (New) A computer-readable storage medium having a computer program stored thereon, the computer program for controlling a server in a system in which the server, a receiving apparatus, and a plurality of measurement instruments are connected to each other via a communication network, the server including a storage unit and being operable to hold a plurality of sets of information, the computer program causing the server to execute a method comprising:

receiving, from each of the measurement instruments, a respective set of information including measured vital data of a respective subject of a plurality of subjects, measured in a quantitative manner, and a respective measurement time;

storing each received set of information in the storage unit;

making a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

making value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

providing the receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.

Claim 55 (New) A server which is connected to a receiving apparatus and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said server comprising a storage unit operable to hold data comprising information specifying each predetermined time segment and an average value of vital data of a plurality of subjects calculated for each predetermined time segment, the information and the average value being associated with each other.

Claim 56 (New) A receiving apparatus which is connected to a server and a plurality of measurement instruments via a communication network, said receiving apparatus comprising:

an output unit operable to receive information provided by the server and operable to output the information,

wherein each of said measurement instruments includes:

- a vital data measurement unit operable to measure vital data of a subject of a plurality of subjects in a quantitative manner;

- a clock unit operable to detect a measurement time at which the vital data of the subject is measured by said vital data measurement unit; and

- a sending unit operable to send, to said server, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time, and

wherein said server includes:

- a receiving unit operable to receive, from each of said measurement instruments, a set of information including the measured vital data of the subject and the measurement time;

- a storage unit;

- a database making unit operable to store each received set of information in said storage unit and operable to make a database associating each received set of information with a respective subject and measurement time;

- a value-added information making unit operable to calculate the vital data for each respective subject and measurement time stored in the database and operable to make value-added information indicating changes over time of average values of the vital data calculated for the plurality of subjects; and

- a value-added information providing unit operable to provide said receiving apparatus with the made value-added information.